

RISE OF THE MIDNIGHT SONS

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GHOST RIDER

**Part 1
of 6**



ANDY KUBERT
(JOE
KUBERT)

For eons, the walls between our earth and the supernatural realms have held fast ... until now. Now those walls are weakening, and LILITH, Queen of Evil, Mother of Demons, has risen from her slumber to shatter the walls and free her hellish spawn. Only the strangest of alliances can drive her back ... a union of old enemies and new heroes, in a battle forever to be remembered as the ...

RISE OF THE MIDNIGHT SONS™

GHOST RIDER #28 PART 1

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SPIRITS OF VENGEANCE #1 Part 2
MORBIUS #1 Part 3
DARKHOLD #1 Part 4
NIGHTSTALKERS #1 Part 5
GHOST RIDER #31 Part 6

WHEN INNOCENT BLOOD IS SPILLED, A SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE IS BORN, AND
DANNY KETCH FINDS HIMSELF TRANSFORMED. STAN LEE PRESENTS . . .

BROOKLYN,
NEWYORK...

KRAK

**GHOST
RIDER**

MURDERERS,
YOU CANNOT
ESCAPE MY...

--VENGEANCE!

RISE OF THE MIDNIGHT SONS PART 2

VISIONS



AN OLD WOMAN'S
BLOOD SPILLED IN
EXCHANGE FOR
THE FEW DOLLARS
SHE CARRIED IN
HER PURSE.



THE INNOCENT
ARE PUT TO REST
IN THEIR GRAVES
AND THE KILLERS
WALK FREE!



YOU'RE JEOPARDIZING
MORE INNOCENT LIVES.
CALM DOWN.

HER LIFE MUST
BE AVENGED.
BLAZE!

YOU'RE **NOT**
TAKING MY GUN
AWAY FROM ME--
AND I DON'T
THINK YOU
WANT TO GO
THIS ROUTE
AGAIN.

YOU KNOW
THAT THANKS
TO YOU THIS
LITTLE BABY
SHOOTS PURE
HELLFIRE.

ENOUGH TO
TAKE YOUR
HEAD OFF
YOUR
SHOULDERS.

DON'T
MAKE
ME
DO IT.

BOOM



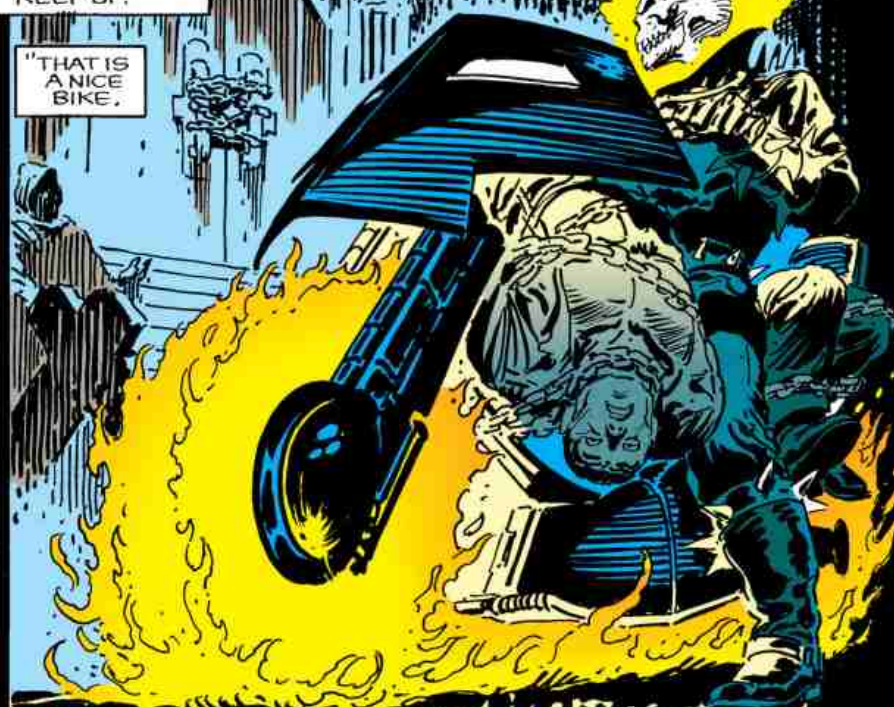


"GREAT! BACK TO CYPRESS HILLS, BACK TO THE CEMETERY."

"THIS IS CRAZY."

"HE'S NOT EVEN OPENING UP THE THROTTLE ON THAT BIKE OF HIS AND I CAN BARELY KEEP UP."

"THAT IS A NICE BIKE."



"BUT HOW LONG CAN I FOLLOW HIM AROUND THIS CITY WHILE HE GATHERS UP THE LOCAL SLIME, GIVES THEM HIS PENANCE STARE AND THROWS THEM IN THAT MAUSOLEUM?"

"WHAT AM I DOING HERE?"



"I'VE GOT A FAMILY, A BUSINESS, AND I THOUGHT I WAS RID OF THIS PARTICULAR DEMON LONG AGO."



"NOW I'M JOHN BLAZE, SIDEKICK TO THE GHOST RIDER..."



"...NOT LIKELY!"



"NICE. THE SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE IS TAKING A BREAK."

"TIME FOR US TO HAVE A LITTLE HEART-TO-HEART."



WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?!

I CAME BACK NORTH WITH YOU TO FIGURE OUT A WAY TO SAVE DAN.

YOU TOLD ME ABOUT HIM HAVING HIS THROAT RIPPED OUT BY BLACKOUT. THAT HE'S DYING INSIDE YOU... YOU CAN'T TRANSFORM BACK WITHOUT KILLING HIM.



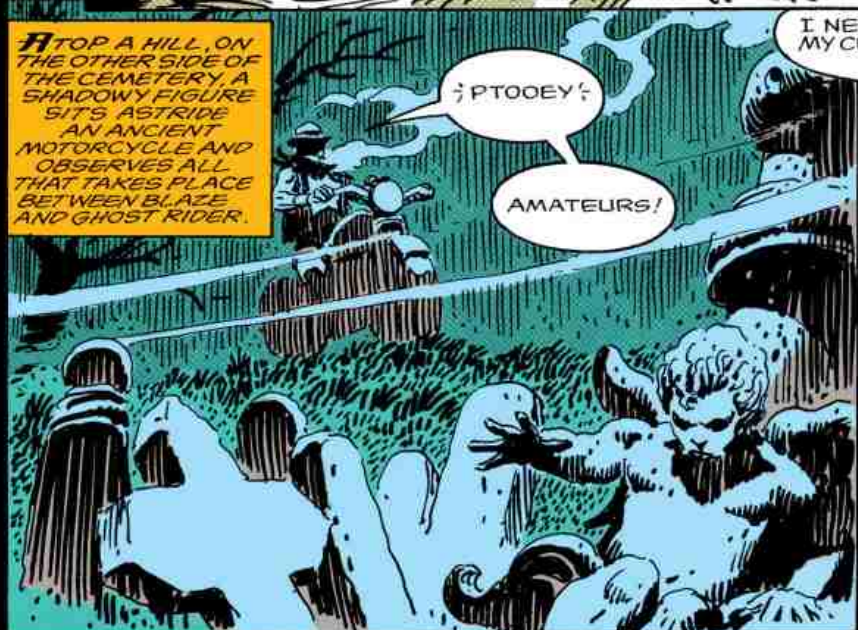
SO LET'S TRY AND HELP HIM ALREADY!

UNLESS YOU'RE NOT DONE WITH THE VENGEANCE GAME? NOW WHAT? YOU GOING TO KILL EVERYONE IN THAT MAUSOLEUM?



IF THAT'S THE COURSE VENGEANCE MUST TAKE-- YES!

ATOP A HILL, ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE CEMETERY, A SHADOWY FIGURE SITS ASTRIDE AN ANCIENT MOTORCYCLE AND OBSERVES ALL THAT TAKES PLACE BETWEEN BLAZE AND GHOST RIDER.



PTOOEY!

AMATEURS!



I NEED THIS IN MY CEMETERY?

ACROSS TOWN,
IN THE KETCH
HOUSEHOLD...

IT'LL BE OKAY,
MRS. KETCH. THEY'RE
GOING TO FIND DAN.
HE'LL BE FINE.

OH, STACY, I PRAY
THAT YOU'RE RIGHT!
BUT I'M SO SCARED.
ALL THE BLOOD THAT
THEY FOUND OUTSIDE...

STACY'S RIGHT.
DAN'S FINE, WE'RE
GOING TO FIND
HIM AND THAT
ANIMAL THAT
KIDNAPPED
US ALL.*

THEY CAN'T
JUST HAVE
DISAPPEARED
OFF THE FACE
OF THE--

BRRRINGG

*ISSUE #25.
--BOBBIE

WHY DON'T
YOU GET
THAT, DAD.

IT'S GOING TO
BE OKAY.

BUT
SO MUCH
BLOOD.
SO MUCH
BLOOD.

STACY, I'M
HEADING
DOWN TO
THE
PRECINCT.

I'LL STAY
HERE AWHILE,
DAD.

GHOST RIDER
HAS RESURFACED.
BADILINO AND
HIS MEN HAVE
HIM CORNERED.
I WANT IN ON
THIS ONE.

THANKS,
STACY...

I WOULDN'T
BE SURPRISED IF
HE HAD SOMETHING
TO DO WITH...
I'VE GOT TO GO.

...BUT
WHERE IS
MY DANIEL?

BACK IN THE CEMETERY...

WHAT ARE YOU, CRAZY?

YOU'RE THINKING OF *KILLING* ALL OF THEM? ISN'T YOUR *PENANCE STARE* ENOUGH?

I DON'T KNOW.

SOMETHING IS SLIPPING AWAY FROM ME. THE NEED FOR VENGEANCE IS OVERRIDING EVERYTHING ELSE.

THOSE THAT I HAVE TRAPPED WITHIN THIS TOMB ARE GUILTY OF THE SPILLING OF INNOCENT BLOOD.

I MUST AVENGE THE INNOCENT.

BUT AT WHAT COST?

DAN IS SLIPPING AWAY. I CAN FEEL IT. IF I DON'T FIND A WAY TO SAVE HIM HE'LL BE LOST, AND I DON'T KNOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO ME.

YOU MAY HAVE TO USE THAT WEAPON OF YOURS AGAINST ME.

PTOOEY!

CLIK

TCHINK



I'M THE **CARETAKER** AROUND THESE PARTS. TAKE CARE OF ALL THE CEMETERIES IN THE AREA. IT'S A PERSONAL THING.

I BEEN KEEPING AN EYE ON YOUR SKINNY FRIEND SINCE HE FIRST POPPED UP. WATCHED HIM STORING ALL THAT SLIME IN A PERFECTLY GOOD MAUSOLEUM. STARTING WITH THAT **BLACKOUT** CHARACTER AND THE ONE CALLED **STERN**.*

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?



*IN ISSUE #25.

ME, I LOVE ONE, BUT THESE COPS HAVE GOT SOME PRETTY HEAVY ARTILLERY. READY FOR A WAR.



WHAT IS HE TALKING ABOUT? HE DRAGS ME UP FROM NEW ORLEANS TO HELP HIM, AND NOW...



HOLD IT, BOY!

HE'S RIGHT WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE! NOW!



BUDDA BUC DA

GET DOWN!

YOU HAVE A PLAN, CARETAKER?

JUST FOLLOW ME.

I KNOW THE PLACE PRETTY GOOD. AS LONG AS YOU'RE NOT AFRAID OF GETTING YOUR PRETTY HANDS A LITTLE DIRTY.



THEIR CRIES
HAVE
STOPPED.

THEY
ARE
DEAD.

THE SPILLING
OF THEIR BLOOD
DOES NOT
DEMAND
VENGEANCE.

THEY WERE
KILLERS.
THEY WERE
THE GUILTY.

BUT
WHO DID THIS
TO THEM?

THE LIGHT!

I DIDN'T
THINK I'D MAKE
IT AFTER WHAT
HAPPENED WITH
GHOST RIDER
AND THOSE
MONSTERS.*

*SEE ISSUE #'S 26
AND 27 OF GHOST
RIDER AND
ISSUE #'S 8 AND 9
OF X-MEN.

I'M ALMOST
THERE. IT'S TAKEN
SO LONG. SO
MUCH PAIN.

DANIEL,
WHAT'S
HAPPENING
TO US?

GHOST RIDER
I'VE ALMOST
REACHED THE
LIGHT.

NOW
I CAN
REST.

WE CAN
NEVER
REST.

VENGEANCE
ALWAYS
CALLS.

THE
INNOCENT
CRY OUT
TO US.



...COME, BOY,
LOOK UPON
THE FUTURE!

FORCES WILL
ASSEMBLE TO
PREVENT ME FROM
GATHERING
MY CHILDREN!

BUT ALL THE SELF-
PROCLAIMED HEROES
WILL FALL BEFORE
THE OFFSPRING
OF LILITH!



LILITH?

CERTAINLY
YOU HAVEN'T
FORGOTTEN
MY NAME,
GHOST
RIDER!

NOT
BLACKOUT!



DID YOU THINK THAT EVEN
YOUR CHAIN COULD HOLD
ME AND MR. STERN WITHIN
THIS CRYPT FOREVER?

PUTTING ASIDE
OUR DIFFERENCES
ALLOWED US TO
COMBINE RESOURCES
AND FREE
OURSELVES.

SOMETHING'S
WRONG WITH
HIM. HE'S NOT
HEARING YOU.

IT'S AS
THOUGH HE'S IN
A TRANCE.



FINE! IT WILL BE THAT
MUCH EASIER FOR US
TO KILL HIM!

THE LAST TIME
I ATTEMPTED THIS,
I LOST HALF
MY FACE.



THIS TIME I
REALLY DO NOT
CARE! I WANT
YOU DEAD--



ARGGGH!



YES,
HUMAN,
SCREAM!

LET THE
SCREAMS OF
YOUR RACE
START HERE.

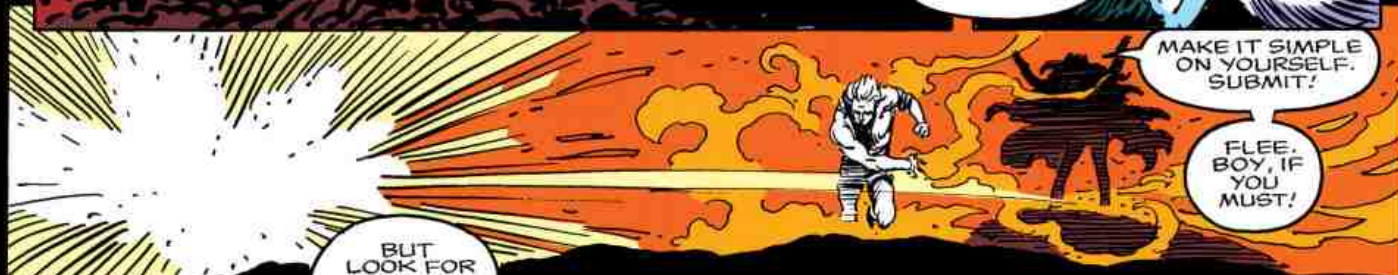
I WILL HAVE
MY
VENGEANCE.

WHAT'S
THIS?

YOU ARE
ONE OF THEM?
ONE OF THOSE
WHO WILL
TRY TO
KILL ME?



THIS WILL
BE EASIER THAN
I HAD HOPED.
WHAT IS
YOUR NAME,
CHILD?



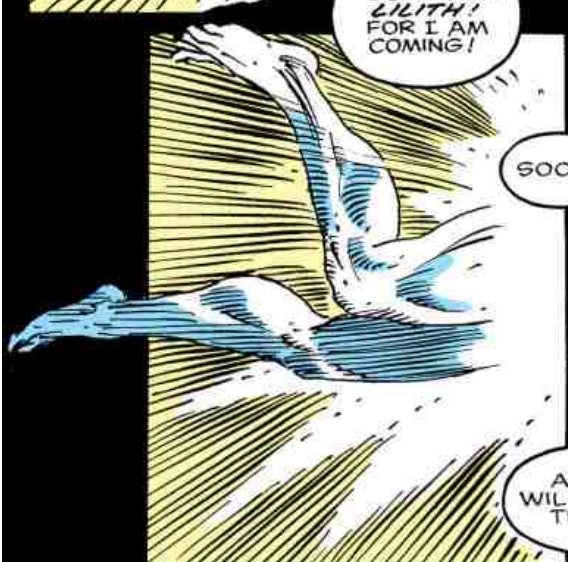
MAKE IT SIMPLE
ON YOURSELF.
SUBMIT!

FLEE,
BOY, IF
YOU
MUST!

BUT
LOOK FOR
LILITH!
FOR I AM
COMING!

SOON!

AND NONE
WILL STOP ME
THIS TIME!





LILITH.

LILITH?

MOTHER?

WHAT ARE
YOU TALKING
ABOUT? DID
YOU KILL
HIM?



HOW DO I KNOW?
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO
BE THE SCIENTIST.
CHECK HIM OUT.

HE LOOKS
THE SAME TO
ME, BUT...

...FRANKLY
I DON'T
CARE!



I'M GETTING
OUT OF HERE
BEFORE YOU
FORGET ABOUT
THE TRUCE
WE HAD,
BLACKOUT.

I'VE GOT MORE
IMPORTANT
BUSINESS TO
ATTEND TO THAN
FIGHTING YOU.







YOU S.W.A.T. GUYS RUN THOSE TWO DOWN.



MY TEAM WILL TAKE CARE OF *GHOST RIDER*.



SMELLS LIKE A CHICAGO BUTCHER HOUSE IN HERE.



LOOKS LIKE HE'S DEAD.

TOO BAD! I WAS HOPING TO DO THE HONORS MYSELF.



OH, WELL, THE SKULL WILL LOOK GOOD ON MY WALL.



WHAM



A FEW MINUTES LATER...



WHERE ARE WE?

CLEAR OVER ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE CEMETERY!

I TOLD YOU THERE ARE TUNNELS THAT RUN ALL OVER THE PLACE IF YOU'RE WILLING TO GET A LITTLE DIRTY!



NOW WE JUST NEED TO GET YOU TWO OUT OF HERE BEFORE...

LILITH!



NAKOTA!

MEAT MARKET!

PILGRIM!

THEY HAVE TO BE STOPPED!

THE BLOOD!









TO BE CONTINUED IN *SPIRITS OF VENGEANCE* #1!